



**What's Happening at Holyrood?
Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin
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BILLS IN PROGRESS

There are currently four Bills progressing through the Scottish Parliament:

[Abolition of Tolls \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks to make provisions for the removal of the remaining tolls from the Forth and Tay Road Bridges as soon as is practicable. This will be done by removing the powers of the Forth Estuary Transport Authority to charge tolls on the Forth Road Bridge and by removing the penalties for non-payment of these tolls. The powers of the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board to charge tolls on the Tay Road Bridge will be removed and relevant provisions relating to these powers will be repealed.

Current status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 3 September 2007. The Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill.

The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 7 November 2007. The Committee, by majority, recommended that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to. The Bill was passed at Stage 1 by Parliament on 15 November 2007. The full transcript of the Stage 1 Debate can be read in the [Official Report](#). **Stage 2 amendments may now be lodged with the clerks to the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee. The Committee will meet on 4 December 2007 to consider the Bill at Stage 2.**

[Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks to make provision in relation to the Commonwealth Games that are to be held principally in Glasgow in 2014. The Bill aims to meet the Scottish Government's obligations under the Host City Contract and deliver the commitments given in the Candidate City file. The Bill seeks to give the Scottish Ministers and councils the powers needed to achieve these aims.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 9 November 2007. The Local Government and Communities Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. The deadline for receipt of written evidence on the general principles of the Bill is 21 December 2007. **The Committee met on 21 November 2007 and took oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill from members of the Scottish Government's Bill Team and members of the Glasgow 2014 and London 2012 Team. The Finance Committee met on 20 November 2007 to discuss their approach to the Financial Memorandum of the Bill.**

[Graduate Endowment Abolition \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks to make provision for the removal of the graduate endowment fee for students who successfully completed their course on 1 April 2007 or thereafter. This will be done by repealing the relevant sections of the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001 (and revoking the principal regulations), together with the express extinguishing of liabilities by reference to the due date of 1 April 2008.



Current status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 22 October 2007. The Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill.

The Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee met on 14 November 2007 to take oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1. **The Committee will next meet on 28 November 2007 to take further evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1 and consider its approach to the draft Stage 1 Report.**

The Finance Committee met on 20 November 2007 to consider and agree a draft report on the Financial Memorandum of the Bill.

Public Health etc. (Scotland) Bill (Ex)

This Bill seeks to re-state and amend the law on public health; to make provision about mortuaries and the disposal of bodies; to enable the Scottish Ministers to implement their obligations under the International Health Regulations; to enable provisions to be made in relation to provision of information to users on the effect on health of sunbeds; to amend the law on statutory nuisances; and for connected purposes.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 25 October 2007. The Health and Sport Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. The deadline for receipt of written evidence on the general principles of the Bill is 18 January 2008.

The Finance Committee met on 6 November 2007 to discuss its approach to the Financial Memorandum of the Bill. **The Subordinate Legislation Committee will consider the delegated powers provisions of the Bill at its next meeting on 27 November 2007.**